

**BRAC Advisory Group Meeting**

**June 16, 2010**

**7:00pm-9:00pm**

**Beatley Library**

**5005 Duke Street**

Roll Call-

Present:

Dave Dexter - Chair, Seminary West  
Mark Benedict, Parkside of Alexandria  
Jayme Blakesley, Alexandria Transportation Commission  
Kai Reynolds, JPG  
Don Buch, Citizens at Large  
Kathy Burns, West End Business Association  
Jerry Dawson, Duke Realty  
Stephanie Landrum, AEDP  
Jim Turkel, DoD  
John Komoroske, Chairman, Planning Commission  
Julie Edelson, Lincolnia Hills/Heywood Glen  
Geoffrey Goodale, Brookville-Seminary Valley  
Dave Cavanaugh, Seminary Ridge

Not Present:

Dick Somers, Seminary Park Community Association  
Nancy Jennings, Seminary Hill  
Gerry Chiaruttini, Beauregard Heights Civic Association  
Ronald Struman, Seminary Heights

City of Alexandria Elected Officials:

Kerry Donley, Vice Mayor  
Redella S. "Del" Pepper, Councilwoman  
Paul Smedberg, Councilman

City Staff:

Adam Thiel, Fire Chief  
Rich Baier, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services  
Abi Lerner, Deputy Director of Transportation and Environmental Services  
Karl Moritz, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Planning, Department of Planning and Zoning  
Bob Garbacz, Chief, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services  
Ravi Raut, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services  
Andrea Wilkinson, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services  
Maria Mercedes White, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services

1. **Roll Call** - Dave Dexter called the meeting to order and called roll.

2. **Approval of May Meeting Minutes** – Dave Dexter asked if there were any changes to May minutes, hearing none, the May minutes were approved.
3. **Change in Staff Support** – Dave Dexter acknowledged that Staff support for the BRAC-133 Advisory Group had transitioned to Andrea Wilkinson and thanked Pat Escher for all of her hard work with the group.
4. **Review and Update on Congressman Moran’s amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill** – Christopher Gaspar, Legislative Aide to Congressman Moran, stated that the goal of the amendment is not to punish the Army but to maintain Levels of Service in the area. Mr. Gaspar stated that the bill may come before the Senate before elections, but the timing is still unclear. Webb’s staff is aware of the amendment and is working with the Army, as they share the same concerns.
5. **Council Approval of New BRAC Coordinator Position** – Abi Lerner stated that the City recognized the importance of the BRAC-133 project and therefore City Council has authorized funding for a BRAC Coordinator position. The position is currently open and will close on July 6.
6. **Matrix Review and Update** – Abi Lerner asked that this item be deferred until after item #7.
7. **BRAC-133 Draft TMP**- Jennifer Rephlo of SAIC gave an overview of the TMP, including the background, purpose, goals, employee travel characteristics, mode splits, trip generations, site description and features, parking, shuttles, traffic study, differences between previous studies, and traffic analysis. Ms. Rephlo clarified that the language in the TMP stating the goal of a 40% reduction will be changed to reflect a 40% non-SOV usage and that mode splits showed primary modes. She stated that the TMP may serve up to 30% of the workforce for transit including rail and shuttle. She clarified that vehicle security checkpoints would go to the south garage and that the building will be LEED gold certified when completed and is not currently LEED gold certified as stated in the draft TMP. Ms Rephlo said that shuttles for BRAC-133 cannot use CNA or IDA shuttles, and that WHS is looking at Franconia/Springfield now as a shuttle stop. She clarified that WHS is considering 25-45 passenger vehicles for the shuttles. When describing the traffic analysis, Ms. Rephlo explained that they used 2011 traffic numbers and included a rotary option in the analysis.

Rich Baier stated that we are asking the Army to clarify some issues and asked Abi Lerner to provide staff response to the TMP. Abi Lerner presented concerns with the draft TMP as shown in submitted comments. He noted that the staff comments are highly educated by input from the Advisory Group and other citizens. Mr. Lerner stated that the major issues of the TMP included: lack of specificity; ignoring strategies and measures recommended by City Staff; an incomplete shuttle plan; no commitment to transit implementation; lack of a funding plan; validity of assumptions; lack of consideration of Moran legislation; and deficient on-going alternative transportation outreach.

In his presentation, Mr. Lerner asked for more detail with shuttles and agreed that the consultant is correcting the language addressing the 40% reduction in SOVs. He stated that the TMP needs

to look at better shuttle services now instead of in the future and that the assumption that transit service within one mile of the site could adequately serve the BRAC facility was not a good assumption. Jennifer Rephlo clarified that only transit within half a mile is considered in the TMP, and Mr. Lerner replied that it is still insufficient. Mr. Lerner asked for more detail in the assumptions and that the rationale behind the assumptions needs to be better documented in the TMP.

Rich Baier agreed that a lot of data has been collected, but the City is concerned that the Plan is not far enough along with implementation only 15 months away. Don Buch stated that if a lot of people are going by rail, then more needs to be done about the busses. If the percentage is up to 30%, more busses are needed. Rich Baier confirmed that lead time is 18 months for buying busses. Jim Turkel said that DoD is operating and funding busses and DoD will respond to need. DoD has reasons for choosing King Street but does not want to waste funds implementing measures that are not used. They may try other locations, then shift as necessary, but they are committed to having a plan in place. DoD may not agree with the submitted comments, but will address what they can. Regarding the Moran amendment, the TMP was 90% done when it came up. Mr. Turkel agreed that a contingency plan is needed, but not as part of the TMP. The Army would prefer to focus energy on a good plan and objectives.

Dave Dexter spoke about identifying satellite parking and shuttling folks from there. He considered logistical impacts on King Street Station if asked to provide space for busses.

Kathy Burns commended staff on their comments and thought that there would be more depth at this level and stated her disappointment with the document.

Jayme Blakesley asked for more detail about modifying transit routes. He also noted that the bicycle routes are unrealistic as they recommended that cyclists ride on sidewalks. As the TMP identified that 500 employees were located within a five mile radius of the Mark Center, he felt that not enough attention was paid to increasing alternate modes of transportation.

Rich Baier stated that Council has a legislative meeting on June 22 and staff will bring a list of issues to send on to NCPC. Jayme Blakesley would like DoD to write responses to comments. Kerry Donley said that as the building will open regardless, we need to focus on the results, not the process. He stated that the TMP represents ideas, but we need agreement on what to do, who is going to do it, and where the funding is. Vice Mayor Donley suggested forming an Ad Hoc Subcommittee with all parties to discuss specificity and make a plan. He stated that providing comments to NCPC is good, but more is needed. He said the City and USACE need to get into results mode and spend less energy on comments and more on getting things done. The City needs to focus attention on the West End as they did with the East End during the Woodrow Wilson bridge project, and is anticipating the new BRAC Coordinator staffer to be a senior, knowledgeable person who is a “doer”.

Paul Smedberg agreed that the future is now and the involved parties need to come to consensus. He supported the idea of forming a group to get recommendations and look at how we will use the Plan to achieve the goal. Councilman Smedberg liked Jim Turkel’s point of using another metro station.

Jim Turkel established that although it may be possible to delay submission of the TMP, it is not likely. It was stated that the intent for the TMP is as a supplement to the Operations Plan, which Abi Lerner confirmed is an internal document to the DoD. Mr. Turkel also stated that he does not feel that any TMP has the levels of specificity like what is being asked.

Dave Dexter stated that further discussions would take place between the Advisory Group, City Staff, and WHS to determine the logistics of the Ad Hoc group and that the Advisory Group was looking forward to the written responses from WHS.

6. **(Deferred from above) Matrix Review and Update** - Abi Lerner reviewed the BRAC-133 Matrix. He clarified that City Staff is examining traffic calming in the surrounding neighborhoods as well as residential permit parking and will also look into funding for traffic calming and mitigation devices.

- 8 & 9. **Comments from Public & Schedule of Meetings During Summer** - Dave Dexter gained consensus to not hold an August meeting of the Advisory Group and opened the floor to public comments.

Nancy Carter-Foster of Falls Church asked that WHS be inclusive of and aware of the affect of BRAC-133 on Fairfax.

Annabelle Fischer of Southern Towers in the City of Alexandria stated that it is not helpful for the City to have an adversarial relationship with the Army. She does not agree with establishing an Ad Hoc group and would like a clarification of the financial relationship between the City and the Army to know the effect of the BRAC-133 demands on City infrastructure on Alexandria taxpayers.

Kerry Donley responded that some City funding will be needed but we will try for federal funding.

Tesha Hogan (**Dave Dexter can confirm**) inquired how access control will work and expressed concern that unscreened vehicles will be allowed in the area.

Valerie Hudson manages real estate near the Mark Center and stated that they have 830 apartment homes nearby and would offer shuttle service to the Mark Center.

Jennifer Porter of the Palisades HOA asked that Table 4.4 be explained more clearly in the TMP.

**(Woman from State Senator Ticer's Office)** stated that region-wide organization is needed for implementation of BRAC-133.

Scott (**Senator Warner's Office**) stated that congressional members are working together with regard to BRAC-133.

Jim Scheider of 1907 Commonwealth Avenue stated that those working on the redevelopment of the Landmark shopping area should work with the BRAC-133 relocation.

Diane Costello asked how the alert level will work and how that will relate to or interfere with evacuation issues, to which Jim Turkel responded that focus is not within the scope of the TMP.

Mark Canale, Fairfax County Staff, stated that Fairfax County would like to see an implementation strategy and agreed the Franconia/Springfield parking lot needs to be considered in the TMP. He also stated that spillover parking needs to be addressed and that if the plan is not working in Alexandria, it is not working in Fairfax.

**10. The meeting was adjourned.**